

Washington, DC-Today Congressman Harry Teague entered the following statement into the Congressional Record honoring the life and memory of Goyathlay, also known as Geronimo. The Chiricahua Apache leader was born on the Gila River in Southern New Mexico.

**Statement of Congressman Harry Teague in support of H. Res. 132, honoring the life and memory of the Chiricahua Apache leader Goyathlay or Goyaale.**

February 23, 2009

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th year after the passing of Goyathlay.

Goyathlay, more famously known as Geronimo, was a Chiricahua Apache leader that hailed from an area that is now part of the great state of New Mexico. He was born on the Gila River, which now lies in the southwestern part of my district.

Goyathlay's actions on behalf of his people have been commemorated in legends, history and film. His skill and indomitable spirit live on as a memorial to the Apache people and their culture. Goyathlay fought to preserve the Apache from what he saw to be an invading force, one that was foreign to him and did not understand his people's ways and beliefs.

I am proud to say, that today I have the privilege of representing the Apache people in the United States Congress. It is an honor to serve as their Representative. The values that they cherish, values that Goyathlay fought so hard to preserve, are still alive in them today.

On the anniversary of Goyathlay's death, we hope that we as a people and Nation have moved beyond the differences that separated us 100 years ago. We hope that we can begin a process to heal old wounds and ensure that everyone's voices are heard and their needs are met.

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